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THE CAPITOL

Democrats, are interested in the appointment of Mario Noto to head the Immigration and Naturalization Service. But Attorney General Griffin Bell, who would be Noto's boss, is leaning to the reappointment of INS Commissioner Leonard Chapman. Noto retired from INS in 1963 after 26 years. . . Visibility seeker is Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd. He plans regular Saturday morning press conferences on national issues. One of his first ran 90 minutes.

CIA's new boss, Adm. Stansfield Turner, went to his Senate confirmation hearings armed with two bright red-penned warnings in front of him: "CRISP" and "POSITIVE." They're not the code names for covert projects. He wrote himself these injunctions for his testimony, he said, "because my staff tells me I always talk too much." It must have worked. His nomination sailed through the Senate.

You know that the CIA has to report covert activities to the Senate Intelligence Committee, but there's no House counterpart panel to tell. Now there is a quiet move under way by Otis Pike and four others to set up a House Intelligence Committee like the Senate's. Pike thinks it might succeed this year but he's not saying why. Only, "I gather there's some mood for it in the House this year." Jimmy Carter, meanwhile, is grumbling that too many congressional committees are sharing CIA secrets now.

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